

SECRET

NPIC/TSSG/RED-1950-69
8 December 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: High Precision Stereo Comparator Program

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1. On 1 December 1969 [] received a letter [] requesting that the acceptance tests for the optical system be delayed from mid-January to the end of February 1970. The reasons put forth in the letter left the cause of the delay open to speculation.

2. In order to get first hand information on the situation, the program manager [] flew [] the evening of 3 December 1969.

3. On 5 December 1969 [] General Manager telephoned [] and passed on information he had received in a telegram []

a. [] has completed the electronic harness and installation work [] stated he was impressed with this work and that [] not be concerned with [] electronic capability.

b. [] was planning a part by part review [] There are no problems with the optics and the difficulties encountered [] are peripheral to the optics. He suspects the difficulties are probably mechanical.

c. The report in general is pretty good.

4. [] will contact [] with further information on 10 or 11 December and [] will pass on the information []

5. [] will telephone [] when he returns [] on 19 December, and give a full report on the problem area and how it affects the program schedule.

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You will certainly remember that - during your last visit [redacted] we discussed the present state of fabrication of the stereocomparator (state which, for the main, you were able to ascertain). This discussion had resulted from the wish to give you a letter [redacted] showing the situation at the end of your stay and giving the date on which we expected to start the acceptance-tests.

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The upshot had been that these tests would take place around February 15 which seemed very late so that we sought to shorten the delivery schedule.

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New means have been put to use, especially for testing and we had hoped that the work would finish at the end of the year or, at the very latest, for mid-January. However, there are complications of which we were aware but which we had hoped to solve quickly. To these difficulties (and we do not know as yet when they will be solved) must be added the lack of precision about the wiring which should be cleared by you after a study by the Technical Department and a letter [redacted] will be writing you these days.

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Adjustment difficulties : let us just mention those encountered with the Zoom 10 of the illumination branch, they have lead us, after 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ months of unsuccessful trials, to redesign and remake this part entirely.

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A strike at our [redacted] plant, lasting for over a fortnight, stopped manufacturing, thus again delaying our schedule.

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To summarize, during your last visit we were too optimistic concerning the solution of the problems already known and find ourselves today not much further on from the stage reached a month ago. Though we are finding most solutions, we feel that great prudence is necessary.

We would like to be able to give you a near delivery date but feel that a realistic schedule be safer, i.e. acceptance-tests for the last week of February, which would normally lead us to March 15 approximately for delivery. ~~for delivery~~ *

Please believe that we are really very sorry about all this; we are sure you understand it as it belongs to the hazards of prototype adjustment.

We do hope that the above mentioned delivery schedule will not inconvenience too seriously your client and intend discussing it with you when you next come

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